

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/053057

International filing date (day/month/year)
23.11.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
24.11.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
G05B23/02

Applicant
G.D. SOCIETA' PER AZIONI

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/053057

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/053057

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	3,5-10,12-21
	No: Claims	1-2,4,11
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	3,5-10,12-13,16-18,20
	No: Claims	1-2,4,11,14-15,19,21
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-21
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following document/s/:

D1:US-B-6330525 (C.HAYS ET AL) 11 December 2001(2001-12-11)

D2:US-B-6370957 (A.FILIPPENKO ET AL) 16 April 2002 (2002-04-16)

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A method for predictive maintenance of an
operating component of an automatic machine;(column 10,lines 55-56)
the method acquiring a first and a second measurement relative to a first (figure 16;step
1610)
and, respectively, a second characteristic quantity of the operating component (figure
16,step 1616),
obtaining a first and a second value (V) which are
10 functions of the first and, respectively, second measurement, and to compare the
first and second value (V) with given reference data;(figure 16,steps 1610,1616)
the method being characterized by determining a specific defect of the operating
component (figure 16,step 1618)
as a function of a combination of a comparison between the first value (V) and the
given reference data with a comparison between the second value (V) and the given
reference data, and/or as a function of a comparison between the given reference data
and a combination of said first and second value (V);(figure 16,steps 1610,1616)
and programming maintenance to correct said defect, as a function of the combination
of the comparison between the first value (V) and the given reference data with the
comparison between the second value (V) and the given reference data, and/or as a
function of the comparison between the given reference data and the combination of
said first and second value
(figure 16,steps 1620-1618)

DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2,4,11

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/053057

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 2,4,11 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The subject matter of claims 2,4,11 is disclosed in D1 (see column 21, line 20-column 26, line 43)

DEPENDENT CLAIMS 14-15,19,21

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 14-15,19,21 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT. The additional features of claims 14,15,19,21 are disclosed in D2 (see column 2, line 33-column 5, line 17)